

Environment Committee

Re: Bill 210

On behalf of Enfield Animal Control, I would like to express my support for raised bill No. 210 an act allowing municipalities who have completed the twenty percent door-to-door survey for unlicensed dogs to keep a larger portion of licensing fees collected by each municipality.

Each year approximately ten to fifteen municipalities in the state actual conduct a door-to-door survey. I can speak for the Town of Enfield Animal Control Department in telling you we have completed the survey since I took over as animal control officer in July of 2007. At that time we had roughly 4400 licensed dogs to just over 6000 licensed dogs during the 2010/11 fiscal year. During this same period, Enfield has gone from paying the state just over \$27,000 to just over \$35,000. Unfortunately, the more dogs we license while enforcing the general statutes pertaining to animal laws, the more we must pay to the state.

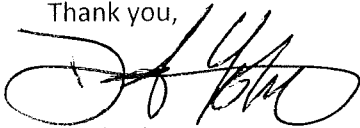
This is upsetting for the municipalities that actually do conduct a survey only to turn around and get the additional 10% back. We work very hard knocking on upwards of 2500 doors annually to recoup monies to support and run an efficient animal control program.

I believe that increasing the monies given back to the municipalities overall will increase the number of licensed dogs statewide. In turn, this would increase money for the municipalities and the state.

Last fiscal year in Connecticut there was just under 215,000 licensed dogs in the state. This is well below the almost 247,000 licensed dogs in 1985/86 fiscal year. It is apparent only a handful of municipalities complete the survey and actually enforce licensing laws because the monies are given to the state. I am aware some of the monies do go to the Department of Agriculture to support State Animal Control Officers which I support within reason; however based on rough figures, all municipalities combined give the state upwards of one million dollars annually. If the money was used for animal control purposes such as training MACO's or periodically given back to the towns this would be acceptable. However, I was told most of it just gets placed into a general fund.

I would like to thank you all for taking the time to hear one's view. I hope you all will support this bill and forward it.

Thank you,



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